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COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR SEYCHELLES

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Seychelles for the period 1979-1981

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I. BASIC DATA

Political Status : Independent since 29 June 1976.
Republic. Member of Commonwealth.

Area, Location : 92 islands
171 square miles of land
400,000 square miles of water area in the Indian Ocean

Population : 62,000 (1977 census) (1980 projection 64,600)

Growth rate : 2.1%

Literacy rate : 96%

National Income : Gross Domestic Product in 1977 (estimates) : Rs. 321.3 million 1/

Estimated per capita GDP in 1977 : Rs. 5,200 (US$675)*

Public Finance (1977) :

Revenue	: 166 million Rs
Expenditure	: 202.9 million Rs
Development Expenditure	: 39.6 million Rs
Externally Financed Development Expenditure	: 38.6 million Rs

External Trade (1977)

	Rupees (in ths)	$ equivalent (in ths)
Imports (CIF)	394,743	51,265
Domestic Exports	24,385	3,167
Re-exports	53,372	6,931
Trade Deficit	316,986	41,167

Major Exports (1977)

Copra	14,503	1,883
Cinnamon bark	3,247	422
Fish(frozen)	3,161	410

1/ Compiled in May 1979 by the ECA Regional Adviser on National Accounts

* Based on the June 1977 UN Operational rate of exchange : US $ 1.00 = 7.70

	Rupees (in ths)	$ equivalent (in ths)
Guano	1,319	171
Coconuts (fresh)	1,146	149
Turtle and tortoise shells	0,375	49
Copper scrap	0,091	12
Coconut brooms	0,089	12
Others	454	59
TOTAL	24,385	3,167

II. INTRODUCTION

1. The Republic of Seychelles covers an area of 400,000 square miles in the Indian Ocean, between 3° and 11° South of the Equator and between 46° and 57° East of Greenwich. Its 92 islands are inhabited by 62,000 people, of whom 90% live on the main island of Mahé, which is 930 km (580 miles) from Malagasy, 1,590 km (990 miles) from Mombasa in Kenya and 2,180 km (1,750 miles) from Bombay in India.

2. The total land area of the group is 171 square miles, of which Mahé accounts for 57. The islands are of rugged, rocky formation with a narrow coastal strip and a central range of hills, rising as high as 905 m (3,000 ft) on Mahé. The rest are coralline islands which often rise only a few feet above sea level and spread over a much larger area of ocean. The furthest of them is 600 miles from Mahé.

3. Seychelles became an independent Republic on 29 June 1976 with a President and a Prime Minister. On 5 June 1977 (Liberation Day) the present Government came to power and the former Prime Minister became President.

4. The Seychelles economy is an extremely open one, with total imports almost equal in value to the GDP and thus, it can be regarded as one of the most dependent on external factors beyond its control. These factors have generally worked in favour of the country.

Public investments have concentranted on infrastructure and basic services such as housing, education, health, transportation, etc. Investment in enterprises has been left mainly to the private sector. It is planned to create the Seychelles National Investment Corporation to promote national economic development by establishing and assisting enterprises in any sector of the national economy. However, the charter of the Corporation requires that its enterprises be conducted on a sound financial and commercial basis.

III. DURATION, TIME FRAME AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

5. Though UNDP assistance to the country dates from pre-Independence days, a Country Programme was not prepared until the Government had completed designing its development strategy and establishing its priorities. The way for this became

clear only after the promulgation of the Plan late in 1977. Thereafter, UNDP assistance was programmed on a yearly basis in line with the annual development programme established by the Government. Therefore, the present Country Programme covers only the last two years (1980-1981) of the second UNDP Development Cycle.

6. Although it is not possible to make definite statements about the availability of aid to the country, it is quite evident that the sources of aid are rapidly diversifying. Apart from the large financial commitments from the United Kingdom and France, loans and grants have been agreed in principle or in reality with the following donors: African Development Bank, European Economic Community, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Norway, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Australia and the People's Republic of Korea. Negotiations are underway with several other governments and Seychelles has recently decided to join the World Bank. However, great efforts will continue to be made to encourage domestic savings. (See Annex III).

IV. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

7. The revised National Development Plan was published on 5 June 1978 and covers the period 1978-1982. It is a revolving plan that will be updated yearly so that realistic targets can be set. It aims at promoting increasing self-reliance so that, in the long run, Seychelles will become less dependent on external sources of assistance. The strategy for achieving this end consists in action concentrating on specific priority areas identified in the Plan as follows: (a) achieving a high degree of self-sufficiency in food production, (b) improving the material conditions of all Seychellois in terms of higher levels of per capita income, nutrition, education, health, housing and responsible family planning and social development, (c) making optimum use of available human resources, leading to the attainment of full employment and (d) preserving the natural environment.

A. Development Planning and Socio-Economic Infrastructure

8. The acute scarcity of development resources of all kinds compelled the Government to resort to development planning in the very early months of its Independence. This, together with the provision of such essential planning tools as statistics and savings and development banks, including the training of relevant personnel constitute the centre-piece in the Government's development strategy.

B. Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries

9. In fulfilment of these objectives, the Govenrment is to direct major attention to food production and thus reduce its excessive dependence on food imports, which account for 20 per cent of the total imports bill. The traditional export crops (vis. copra and cinnamon) are to witness a reversal of the recently declining trend in output.

The improvement of the nation's management of its forests is also a major object of policy that will be pursued with due regard to environmental considerations.

10. Livestock production is to be expanded, with a view to making rapid advances towards self-sufficiency in animal products, and fisheries development is to enable the country to tap its Economic Exploitation Zone (EEZ) so as to provide enough for domestic consumption and leave a large surplus for export.

C. Industry, Commerce and Tourism

11. Industry is likely to remain a rather small sector in the economy, dominated by tiny establishments, thanks to the smallness of the local market, absence of appropriate raw materials and the dearth of skill-trained human resources. Nevertheless, the Plan foresees an expansion in this sector with the further development of agricultural output and skill training, which will open the way to the creation of such agro-industries as the processing of fruit, wood, animal carcass and fish catches.

12. Concern for the quality of the environment is expressed not only through such conservation measures as the rational management of the nation's forests, but also through the expansion of existing national parks and creation of new ones as well as prohibition of hunting or fishing in them. These also constitute a significant element in a programme of well controlled development of the tourist industry, whose earnings go a considerable way to pay for the nation's imports. The industry's capacity to offer direct employment in hotels, guest houses and restaurants, as well as extensive job opportunities in ancillary areas (e.g. car and boat rental, sales and rental of sportswear and handicrafts) also makes its expansion part of the larger strategy of securing full employment.

D. Education and Training

13. Towards the declared goal of improving the material condition of all Seychellois, the Plan also places deserving emphasis on education and training, health (including family planning), and housing. The principal features of Government's educational policy are (a) to establish equality of educational opportunity, (b) to amalgamate all primary and junior secondary schools into joint schools known as the Primary Sector, (c) to introduce nine years of free universal education, and (d) to reform the curricula so as to render them more relevant to the developmental needs of the country.

14. A formal education is to be accompanied by a vigorous programme of training in a comprehensive programme of educational reform. Such training, which is also to facilitate the attainment of the goal of full employment and improved per capita income, is to be provided over such wide fields as agriculture, meteorology, civil aviation, tourism, health, business management and handicrafts. In addition , a workers' education programme is envisaged in the Plan as a means of ensuring good industrial relations to serve the ends of stable economic growth.

E. Health and Housing

15. In the health sector, emphasis is placed on preventive health and provision of free medical services through the upgrading and expansion of existing facilities, creation of new ones, particularly in the outlying islands and hospital staff training as indicated above. A determined attack is also to be made on the serious problem of housing shortage with its attendant slum development characterized by health and sanitation hazards.

F. Transport and Communications

16. The importance of transportation and communication for an island country made up of a large number of scattered islands cannot be exaggerated. The Plan therefore makes the development of this sector the corner-stone of its programme of expansion of agricultural and industrial output, the opening up of the outer islands and propelling of the economy on to a higher growth path.

V. ROLE OF UNDP ASSISTANCE

A. General Development issues, policy and planning

17. The Seychelles Ministry of Planning and Development was created in 1977 with responsibility to plan, supervise and coordinate activities in overall socio-economic development and housing. The following projects are included in the Country Programme to serve the purpose of strengthening the technical and analytical services of this and other ministries and/or departments.

Completed Project

Assistance to Seychelles Development Bank - (SEY/77/004)

18. In September 1977 the Decree establishing the Development Bank of Seychelles was issued and the Government requested UNDP to provide the services of an accountant to set up the accounting system, train local staff and operate the accountancy functions of the Bank. Some basic equipment was also purchased under the project which terminated in March 1979.

The total UNDP contribution for 1977-1979 is $ 32,329

Ongoing Projects

Social Security and Other Social Services - (SEY/77/002)

19. This project which was a follow-up of a previous one month consultancy (carried out under SEY/75/003) began in October 1977. UNDP was requested to provide an expert to assist in the preparation of the necessary legislative and administrative measures to establish a social security scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Government. The services of consultants in actuary labour legislation and accountancy were also provided under this project.

The Government has now requested the assignment of an OPAS deputy manager for the National Social Security Scheme for a period of two years as from 1979 to provide assistance in the daily operation and administration of the scheme.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 295,110 for the period 1977-1981.

Assistance to Postal Services, Postal Savings Bank and Philatelic Department - (SEY/78/006)

20. The need to reorganize the Postal Savings Bank and the Philatelic Department was identified by the postal administration of Seychelles. UNDP assistance was requested in the form of an expert for one year as from January 1979 for a 5 month course in Postal Management, savings bank operations, philatelic service and instructors' training.

The total UNDP assistance for the period 1979-1981 is $ 73,632.

Orientation of Economic Development Personnel - (SEY/79/007)

21. This project will enable the training of outstanding postgraduates in different aspects of economic development through attachments or study tours which will deepen their understanding through first-hand observation and study.

The total UNDP contribution in 1979 is $ 4,227.

Proposed Activities

Customs Reorganization and Training - (SEY/78/009)

22. The Customs Division was totally reorganized in 1978, with a view to (i) improving the division's efficiency, (ii) increasing budget revenues especially from levies on imports, and (iii) training customs officers. UNDP is requested to provide the services of an expert in Customs and Excise Administration who will carry out intensive on-the-job training of customs officers and the streamlining of procedures.

The total UNDP contribution for 1979-1980 is $ 31,000.

Strengthening of Economic and Development Planning - (SEY/79/009)

23. The Ministry of Planning and Development has requested UNDP assistance in the provision of a Chief Development Officer (OPAS) who, under the general direction of the Principal Secretary, would help the Government to achieve an economical and coordinated use and development of land resources, including land management and valuation, physical planning, building control and minerals exploitation. He would also manage the personnel, administrative and financial affairs of the Division. An associate expert or UN Volunteer is also to be assigned to this project as Statistician/Economist.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 96,000 of which $ 77,000 is earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

The Government contribution is approximately Rs. 144,000.

B. AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

(i) Agriculture

24. Due to historical and environmental factors, agriculture has not yet received the attention it deserves. The country imports a high percentage of its overall food requirements at considerable cost, while the potential that exists in export crops and industrial raw materials of agricultural origin has yet to be fully exploited. The focus of Government's endeavours in these areas during the period will be on training and improvement of agricultural data and statistics.

Ongoing Project

Agricultural Training - (SEY/72/002)

25. UNDP assistance has been obtained for the creation of the Agricultural Training Institute located at Anse Boileau This school offers in-service training and refresher courses to local farmers who attend on a part-time basis. Further assistance is required to finance staff training as follows: (i) 1979-1983: two 4-year fellowships, (ii) 1981-1985: two 4-year fellowships.

UNDP contribution to this project for the period 1977-1981 will amount to $ 95,870.

Proposed Activity

Agricultural Statistics - (SEY/80/001)

26. The Government has decided to establish an agricultural statistics unit within the Department of Agriculture in order to plan the overall agricultural production in a more rational manner. To this effect, a consultant under the ECA Regular Programme will advise on the viability of such a unit. Should his recommendations be positive, it will then be necessary to strengthen the unit by assigning to it as associate expert or, possibly, a UN Volunteer for a period of two years as of 1980. The consultant would return for one month in 1980 and one month in 1981 to strengthen the unit and guide and supervise the associate expert or UNV. It is also planned to award a two-year fellowship within the region to a Seychellois for advanced training.

The requested UNDP assistance is $ 30,400 of which $ 19,600 is earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

(ii) Livestock

27. In order to lessen its dependency on imported meat and milk products which constitute a heavy drain on the country's foreign exchange, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in tropical cattle breeding and milk production techniques.

Ongoing Project

Beef and Milk Production -(SEY/73/002)

28. UNDP was requested to launch the above project in order to start intensive cattle-breeding based on locally grown sugarcane, bananas, cassava and accacia. Recently it was decided to introduce into the project the concept of open pan amorphous sugar production which would allow (i) the cane rind to be used as fibre for construction or other purposes, (ii) amorphous sugar to be made from the derinded stalks and (iii) the pressed pith after partial extraction of the juice to be used as cattle feed. Energy requirements for the evaporation of the juice and the driving of the cane separator and press would be partially obtained from biogas produced by anaerobic digestion of the cattle excreta. This project provides short-term consultancies, equipment and training.

The total UNDP contribution for 1973-1981 amounts to $ 274,804 of which $ 153,156 has been earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

(iii) Fisheries

29. Growing tourism and the building boom that accompanied it adversely affected local traditional fishing as it did agriculture. About 5,000 tons of fish is caught annually and consumed locally. Plans are now underway to expand this output to meet the full local demand and export the surplus and, towards this end, the fishermen had to be provided with larger and better equipped boats with which they could go further to haul larger catches.

Ongoing Project

Consultancy Services to the Department of Agriculture - (SEY/72/003)

Fisheries Control Station

30. The above project assisted the Government by having a consultant design in-shore and coastal fishing boats. It has been decided to build a 38-ft fishing vessel and it is hoped that funds for this purpose are to be obtained from non-IPF sources. However, boatbuilding consultancies during the period of construction will be financed under this project. Moreover, with the establishment of the EEZ, it will be necessary for the Government to have a Fisheries Control Station to monitor the movement of its own fishing vessels, of foreign vessels entering the EEZ, to obtain various information from those vessels, to collect meteorological data, to act as security station, etc. It is proposed to recruit in 1980 a specialized consultant who would prepare a feasibility study for such a station which the Government would build either from its own resources or from outside assistance.

The total UNDP contribution to this project is $ 27,240 of which $ 18,157 is earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

Proposed Activity

Fisheries Management Company - (SEY/80/002)

31. Great efforts have been made to exploit the country's vast fisheries resources and, in 1978, the Government signed agreements with France and the Unived Kingdom to cover the first phase of a new tuna fishery. Of the four fishing vessels, being built in France, two were delivered by the end of 1979 and fishing should start at the beginning of 1980. Under British aid, work has started to improve on the existing shore facilities. As support to these operations, the Government has created a Holding Company and a Management Company and requested UNDP assistance to provide an expert in fisheries to advise on the management of the above companies, and in other related fields, for a duration of one year as from July 1980. Thereafter, the Government officials trained by the expert should be able to carry on independently, assisted occasionally by short visits of a consultant.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 66,000 earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

C. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

(i) Industry

32. As in other newly independent developing countries, the expansion of the industrial sector and, through it, of employment opportunities and economic growth in Seychelles, depends to a large extent on the promotion and development of small-scale industries and handicrafts. The planned introduction, organization and promotion of vocational trades and training will obviously have a decisive role to play in this domain when the proper time comes. For the time being, a modest effort has been initiated under the Ministry of Education and Culture to establish a network of small craft centres as a first step towards the diversification and qualitative improvement of local craft production with a view to generating additional revenue in conjunction with the growing tourist industry. The following activities have been implemented under UNDP assistance.

Completed Project

Assistance to Educational Services - (SEY/73/001)

33. In 1973, the Government requested UNESCO through UNDP to assist in the investigation of potential craft development in Seychelles. In response a consultant visited Seychelles for three months and a report was produced. It was then agreed that a major thrust forward be made to develop craft industries. Additional consultancy services were provided under this project and a study tour was organized in the Africa region where the participant concentrated on visits to institutions of relevance to the fellow's professional needs.

The total UNDP contribution to this project is $ 25,279 of which $ 2,200 was earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

Ongoing Project

Craft Training - (SEY/78/007)

34. Traditionally, Seychelles has always produced handicraft of a reasonably good design but often, the quality was not up to required standards. Little has been done in the field of research into the growing use of locally available raw materials and improvement of quality to meet the growing demand from tourists. A UN Volunteer has therefore been assigned to Seychelles for two years under this project to assist the Government. Some equipment and a fellowship for the training of the counterpart have also been included.

The total UNDP contribution for 1978-1980 is $ 31,450.

(ii) Commerce

35. Commerce has been, and still is, very traditional and liberal. Almost all the goods are imported and sold to the population, some to tourists, some are re-exported. It is planned to improve local marketing arrangements through a variety of means.

Ongoing Projects

Consultancy for Duty Free Shops - (SEY/79/003)

36. Since the opening of the International Airport in Seychelles in 1972, the growth of tourism has been very rapid. Duty free trade was established recently and there is now only one duty free shop in Seychelles. The Government has therefore decided to develop these activities which would provide additional revenue. The immediate objective of this project is to assess, plan and develop the organizational structure for duty free shop activities through a mission by short-term consultants.

The total UNDP contribution in 1979 is $ 7,514.

Cinnamon Market Development Project - (SEY/79/005)

37. Seychelles is the second largest producer and exporter of cinnamon bark in the world. In recent years, however, both the production and export of cinnamon bark and cinnamon products have declined. During the spice seminar held in Seychelles in May 1978, the participants emphasized the importance of cinnamon and concluded that international assistance was necessary to develop the industry. This project will provide the services of a marketing consultant and a quality control expert who will assist in developing the cinnamon industry, maximize the foreign exchange earnings by improving the quality and increasing the exports.

The total UNDP contribution in 1979 is $ 24,350.

Proposed Activity

Establishment of a National Marketing Board - (SEY/80/003)

38. Being keenly aware of the inadequacies of existing arrangements for the marketing of agricultural products, the Government has decided to establish a National Marketing Board. In order to assist in the creation of, and to advise on the management of such a Board, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in the form of an expert, as of 1981, for a period of two years. A two-month study tour is also planned in 1982 to enable a Seychellois visit successful similar operations in other countries.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 140,400 of which $ 31,200 is earmarked for the period 1981.

D. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Transport

39. The geographical location and isolation of the Seychelles islands relative to both the rest of the world, and to one another within the archipelago, constitute constraints to balanced socio-economic development. Existing roads on the main islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue need to be redesigned, extended and improved, while transport and communication between the archipelago's numerous islands must be facilitated if meaningful development and a move towards ultimate self-sufficiency are to be achieved. Related maintenance services will have to be assured. Effort also has to be mobilized in the establishment and development of marine and air transport facilities with a view to the ultimate development of the outer islands. The following activities have been proposed to strengthen the relevant institutions and services in these areas.

Ongoing Projects

Civil Aviation Training - (SEY/76/003)

40. In its effort to localize its civil and technical services, the Government needs assistance to train its staff in air traffic control (ATC) in the United Kingdom and in air rescue and search operations. It is hoped that, by 1981, no more foreign expertise will be needed in these areas. Additional ATC courses and pilot training is to be financed from non-IPF sources.

The total UNDP contribution for 1977-1981 is $ 75,792.

Inter-Island Transport Needs - (SEY/78/008)

41. Towards establishing viable transport links among those islands with known economic potentials, a one month consultancy was carried out in December 1978. This entailed a preliminary assessment of the level and kind of services needed

both by air and by sea and advice on a structure of tariffs, fares and subsidies. A follow-up mission will take place in 1980 and will be financed from non-IPF sources.

The total UNDP contribution for 1978-1980 is $ 4,633.

(ii) Communications

42. As in the case of transport, the virtual isolation of Seychelles and the scattering of its islands give communications and ancillary services an important place in the Government's development strategy, particularly in light of the stated policy of development of the outlying islands, both from the point of view of physical and social infrastructure as well as increased agricultural production.

Completed Projects

Assistance to Postal Services - (SEY/77/003)

43. In July 1975, the Seychelles Postal Administration was visited by a UPU Regional Expert who recommended the installation of a new post office and a review of the postal services in the light of traffic forecasts. In 1977, a second UPU consultant visited Seychelles to study the development of the postal services and staff training. Acting upon the recommendations of the latter consultant's report, the Government requested UNDP to provide further consultancy services for 9 months to train the staff, review the working methods, prepare the operation manuals and advise on the refurbishing of the post office.

The UNDP contribution for 1978 was $ 34,493.

Consultancy Services for Radio Seychelles - (SEY/78/003)

44. The Government Information Services of Seychelles were recently reorganized and a Director of Information Services was appointed with responsibility for Radio Seychelles while the Chief Information Officer concentrated on the Government daily newspaper. It was then decided that new headquarters should be built for Radio Seychelles, leaving the present building for the Government newspaper and its related printing activities.

The Government requested the services of an architect and a broadcasting engineer to produce design sketches and costing of the accommodation for Radio Seychelles and a report outlining (i) recommendations for improved radio reception for the outer islands, and (ii) the feasibility of establishing a television service in Seychelles.

The consultancies took place from November 1978 to January 1979. The total UNDP contribution was $ 15,782.

Ongoing Project

Meteorological Training - (SEY/75/002)

45. The Government requests that assistance be continued under this project to provide facilities for external technical training. In line with the policy adopted for civil aviation, and as a continuation of the ongoing UNDP effort in this field, training of meteorological staff at a regional training institution is to be financed under the project.

The UNDP contribution to this project for the period 1977-1981 is $ 80,016.

E. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

(i) Education

46. The Government has accorded utmost priority to the improvement of the educational system as the basis of future economic development of the country as an independent, self-reliant and increasingly prosperous state. Apart from providing relevant education, the Government wants to enable young people to participate effectively, through their work, in the economic development of the country, to contribute as citizens to national unity at the political, cultural and social levels through service to their community and to develop their own personality. To achieve these aims, the Government has asked UNDP to provide the following assistance.

Ongoing Project

Consultancy Services in Education - (SEY/79/006)

47. In accordance with the Government's educational reform policy and further to an in-depth report on future education development prepared for Seychelles by UNESCO, UNDP has been requested to provide consultancy services (9 m/m) in various educational fields.

The total UNDP contribution for 1979-1980 is $ 51,440.

(ii) Training

48. The acute shortage of skilled personnel at professional, managerial and technical levels constitutes a threat to the Goverment's policy of rapid economic growth with full employment. The National Development Plan therefore regards training at all levels as of primordial importance to the long-term development and stability of the nation as a whole. Various measures have been envisaged among which those listed below have been earmarked for UNDP support.

Completed Projects

Hotel Catering and Tourism - (SEY/74/001)

49. As a result of previous ILO consultancies, the training needs for personnel

in the hotel-catering and tourist travel sectors, the Government of Seychelles requested UNDP assistance in 1974 for the setting up of a Hotel Catering and Tourism Training Centre. This assistance was in the form of experts, fellowship training and equipment. The project was completed in 1977.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 506,227 of which $ 119,967 was for the period 1977-1978.

Middle Management and Supervisory Studies - (SEY/76/002)

50. The Government's concern over the need for trained middle management and supervisory staff led to a demand for courses leading to recognised qualifications which both the Public Service and Commerce and Industry could utilize. UNDP was requested to field an adviser in 1977 for one month to study in situ the need for such training, advise how courses should be run and produce syllabuses acceptable to both Government and the Industry.

The total UNDP contribution is $ 3,945.

Assistance to Secretarial School - (SEY/78/004)

51. In order to keep pace with an increasing demand for trained secretarial staff needed both by the Government and the private sector on account of the increased economic activity, the secretarial school had to be expanded and UNDP was requested to provide in 1978 fifteen manual office typewriters.

The total UNDP contribution to this project is $ 8,000.

Ongoing Projects

Supervisory Training - (SEY/73/003)

52. This project was established in 1974 to provide the services of an expert in supervisory and vocational training. Following this mission and training courses, the need for further assistance in the form of additional training equipment, tools and visual aids for the Seychelles Technical School was recognized by the Government. This additional equipment would enable more advanced training to be carried out for the trainees. An additional fellowship was also provided in 1978.

The total UNDP contribution to this project is $ 88,916 of which UB $ 36,254 has been earmarked for the period 1977-1981.

Youth Activities - (SEY/79/001)

53. The Government has decided to set up a National Youth Service (NYS) in order to involve young people from 16 to 17 years during a period of 6 to 12 months in

activities linked with the overall development effort of the country. These activities will include practical training in agriculture and handicrafts as well as public works for the local communities. UNDP has been requested to provide a consultant for 6 months who would prepare the legal and organizational structure of the National Youth Service, including its budgetary implications. He would also advise on the selection and training of the first group of trainers.

The total UNDP contribution for 1979-1980 is $ 37,300.

(iii) Human Resources Management

54. A shortage of qualified manpower and pressing unemployment are rendering planning activities and management of human resources essential for the rapid development in this field.

Ongoing Project

Employment and Manpower Planning - (SEY/78/001)

55. The Government requested the appointment of a short-term consultant, who prepared a manpower plan and designed a programme for manpower and employment assessment and planning. The main consultancy was in 1978; another short visit will possibly take place in 1980. However, Government has decided to request further assistance in this field as from 1980 under a new project: National Planning and Coordination of Manpower Development.

The total UNDP contribution to this project for 1978-1979 is $ 19,154.

Proposed Activities

Workers' Education Programme - (SEY/79/004)

56. The National Development Plan (1978-82), recognizes the importance of good industrial relations for stable economic growth and the Government's policy is to involve representatives of both workers and employers in consideration of wage structures and existing and new legislation. UNDP has been requested to provide a consultant who will assist the National Workers Union in its educational research department, library and general administration. He will train educators of the Union in all aspects of workers' education and organize several small workshops/ seminars on workers' education. Training abroad will be provided for 2 union leaders. Some equipment will be acquired with project funds.

The total UNDP contribution earmarked for 1980-1981 is $ 44,879.

National Planning and Co-ordination of Manpower Development - (SEY/79/008)

57. As a follow-up to project SEY/78/001, Employment and Manpower Planning, Government has requested further assistance to establish the manpower planning

machinery. This project will assess the progress made and identify any shortcomings/restraints in the existing arrangement, make recommendations and provide assistance in overcoming problems together with further developments which would ensure an effective overall system. A consultant will be fielded for six months in 1980. 3 m/m overseas training will also be provided in 1980.

The total UNDP contribution earmarked in 1980 is $ 40,000.

F. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HEALTH

(i) Human Settlements

58. The last population census carried out in Seychelles in 1977 revealed such deficiencies in the pattern of habitation as overcrowding and substandard accommodation. The result of these findings has been a concerted effort on the part of the Government to make overall quantitative and qualitative improvements in the field of housing for the country as a whole. With housing as one of the current Plan's top priorities, steps have been taken to establish the requisite institutional infrastructure and develop the required technical and managerial personnel for the efficient planning, administration and financing of the national housing programme. It is in this context that the activities listed below have been proposed in support of this sector with UNDP assistance.

Ongoing Projects

Assistance in Housing Programme Implementation - (SEY/78/102)

59. This project aims at strengthening of the staff of the Housing Division of the Department of Economic Development, Planning and Housing by providing the services of two associate experts for a period of two years to give technical advice and assistance and train housing assistants of the Housing Division's staff in the administration of the various housing programmes and projects being undertaken by the Government. Some equipment will also be provided. For these purposes, the Government is requesting an additional fellowship in the field of housing and planning for a duration of nine months in 1981.

The total UNDP contribution for 1978-1981 is $ 24,450.

Assistant Building Control Officer - (SEY/79/002)

60. By providing the services of a UN Volunteer for two years, the project will assist the Government in supervising the housing schemes undertaken by self-help builders under commodity aid counterpart funds provided by the European Economic Commission and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The total UNDP contribution for 1979-1981 is $ 18,600.

(ii) Health

61. In the recently published National Health Plan, the Government has decided that access to health services will be determined by medical need rather than ability to pay. The Government will therefore provide a tax-financed health service. It is also essential that the preventive and curative aspects of public health be consi-

derably strengthened through the establishment of a network of health centres, out-patient clinics and mobile teams. To this end, the training of competent national staff becomes a priority. Various measures have been envisaged for implementation among which the ones listed below have been earmarked for UNDP support.

Proposed Activity

Health Training - (SEY/80/004)

62. UNDP has been asked to provide assistance for the provision of a consultant who, towards the end of 1980, would conduct a course for the training of public health nurses (in management) for a period of six weeks. Under the same programme, courses will be made available in regional institutions to three nurses in 1980, and some health inspectors during 1980-1981.

The total UNDP contribution for 1980-1981 will be $ 22,500.

G. SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE FIRST COUNTRY PROGRAMME

63. The major development problems and constraints of the Republic of Seychelles are the dispersal of the islands that make up the country; its physical isolation; limited agriculturally exploitable land; lack of minerals of any economic significance and smallness of its population size. These characteristics in turn lead to transportation difficulties among the constituent islands and between the country as a whole and the nearest continental masses; the necessity to import food for consumption and raw materials for its fledgling industrial sector; excessive dependence on a limited number of economic activities (viz copra production and tourism), and inability to reap advantages from the economies of scale.

The foregoing problems have been compounded by unemployment on the one hand and critical shortage of skilled personnel at all levels on the other, as well as world-wide inflation, due in no small measure to the unprecedented escalation of the price of petroleum.

64. The current UNDP Country Programme addresses all these problems and therefore, of necessity, is characterized by a large number of projects in the small-size category. Since the Second National Development Plan focuses on these very constraints, the result is close correspondence in thrusts of these development instruments. A further factor contributing to the small size of the average project is the small size of the IPF and the desire to approach many of the required areas initially through short-term consultancies, which are to lead the way to larger projects ultimately. Owing to the severe pressures on the IPF, and the fact that the country programme covers the last two years of the current development cooperation cycle, no unallocated reserves could be allowed.

65. The sectoral weights of IPF distribution is as follows: General development issues, policy and planning 31%; Agriculture, livestock and fisheries 31%, Education, training and Human resources management 20% Industry and commerce 9%; Human settlements and health 7%; Transport and communications 2%.

66. The small size of the IPF makes it necessary for UNDP interventions to be restricted to fields in which the executing agencies can provide the required expertise without undue delay. Also, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA have undertaken reasonably large assistance programmes financed outside the IPF. In the field of education, bilateral interventions have been quite massive and one UNESCO educational planner is being financed under the technical assistance component of an ADB loan for education. The IMF has assigned two specialists to help the newly established Monetary Authority in its day-to-day operations. There are still quite a large number of bilateral experts assigned either in an executive or advisory capacity and, in the fields covered by these experts, no UNDP intervention is necessary, except for the training of nationals to replace these experts eventually.

67. The Government is eagerly looking to regional co-operation in an effort to overcome its developmental problems and its geographic isolation and has joined in a relatively large number of regional or interregional UNDP projects executed by UN agencies. The main fields of interest are the following: Employment and manpower planning; labour administration; civil aviation (management and training); statistics, trade negotiations; telecommunications; fisheries and aquaculture; postal training; shipping and intra-African trade; primary and public health care; generalized system of preferences; women's activities; sugar production.

68. Considerable opportunities exist under practically all the projects in the Country Programme for catering to the needs of women who constitute approximately 50 per cent of the population. In addition, interests of women will be specially promoted through the handicraft project in which they are being introduced to improved sewing techniques and the use of new raw materials for the manufacture of goods, the sale of which will improve their families' income.

69. The Government is keenly interested in TCDC, particularly in the field of human resources development and is enthusiastically using training facilities available not only in neighbouring African countries but also as far afield as Trinidad and Tobago. Additional opportunities are also being explored elsewhere in the developing world. Elements of new dimensions also exist in the Country Programme in the form of increased use of UN Volunteers working as middle level operational personnel in the fields of handicrafts and housing.

70. The needs of the Government are such that a larger number of priority projects was submitted than could be accommodated within the IPF. Should additional funds become available, some or all of these projects could be implemented. They are listed in Annex IV.

ANNEX I

ALLOCATION OF UNDP RESOURCES

I. RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT OF PROGRAMMING

	$
IPF 1977 to 1981	1,600,000
Actual expenditure for 1977-1978 plus estimated expenditure through December 1979	847,227
Total resources available for programming (1980 to 1981)	752,723

II. USE OF RESOURCES

(a) Completed projects	216,716
(b) Ongoing projects	1,051,105
(c) New projects	332,179
Total	1,600,000

III. ANNUAL FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMME BY SECTOR

	1980	1981	TOTAL	per cent
A General Development Issues, Policy and Planning	134,263	101,561	235,824	31
B Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	136,134	97,698	233,832	31
C Industry and Commerce	34,950	31,200	66,150	9
D Transport and Communications	16,000	-	16,000	2
E Education, Training and Human Resources Management	90,760	59,319	150,079	20
F Human Settlements and Health	32,250	18,588	50,838	7
GRAND TOTAL	444,357	308,366	752,723	100

Estimated expenditure from January 1980 through December 1981	752,723
Actual 1977 and 1978 expenditures plus estimated expenditure through December 1979	847,277
TOTAL	1,600,000

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1977 - 1981

COUNTRY : SEYCHELLES

Activities by Sector	Total	1977	1978	1979	IPF : US $ 1,600,000 1st Country Programme 1980	1981	Sub-Total
A. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES' POLICY AND PLANNING							
(a) Completed Projects							
1. Seychelles Development Bank	32,329	24	21,305	11,000	-	-	-
Sub-Total (a)	32,329	24	21,305	11,000	-	-	-
(b) Ongoing Projects							
1. Social Security and Other Social Services	295,110	11,003	108,666	64,719	63,843	46,879	110,722
2. Assistance to Postal Savings Bank and Philatelic Department	73,632	-	-	51,530	17,820	4,282	22,102
3. Orientation of Economic Development Personnel	4,227	-	-	4,227	-	-	-
Sub-Total (b)	372,969	11,003	108,666	120,476	81,663	51,161	132,824
(c) New Projects							
1. Customs Reorganization and Training	31,000	-	-	5,000	26,000	-	26,000
2. Strengthening of Economic and Development Planning	77,000	-	-	-	26,600	50,400	77,000
Sub-Total (c)	108,000	-	-	5,000	52,600	50,400	103,000
Total General Development Issues, Policy and Planning	513,298	11,027	129,971	136,476	134,263	101,561	235,824

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1977-1981

COUNTRY: SEYCHELLES

Activities by Sector	Total	1977	1978	1979	IPF : US$ 1,600,000 1st Country Programme 1980	1981	Sub-Total
B. AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES							
(a) Ongoing Projects							
1. Agricultural Training	95,870	105	9,451	10,000	30,416	45,898	76,314
2. Consultancy Services to the Department of Agric. - Fisheries Control Station	18,157	-	2,157	5,035	10,965	-	10,965
3. Beef and Milk Production	153,156	7,472	27,531	57,200	60,953	-	60,953
Sub-Total (a)	267,183	7,577	39,139	72,235	102,334	45,898	148,232
(b) New Projects							
1. Fisheries Management Company	66,000	-	-	-	28,800	37,200	66,000
2. Agricultural Statistics	19,600	-	-	-	5,000	14,600	19,600
Sub-Total (b)	85,600				33,800	51,800	85,600
Total Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	352,783	7,577	39,139	72,235	136,134	97,698	233,832
C. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE							
(a) Completed Projects							
1. Assistance to Educational Services	2,200	-	2,200	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total (a)	2,200	-	2,200	-	-	-	-

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1977-1981

COUNTRY: SEYCHELLES

Activities by Sector	Total	1977	1978	1979	IPF : US$ 1,600,000 1st Country Programme 1980	1981	Sub-Total
(b) Ongoing Projects							
1. Craft Training	31,450	-	2,450	18,400	10,600	-	10,600
2. Consultancy for Duty Free Shops	7,514	-	-	7,514	-	-	-
3. Cinnamon Market Development	24,350	-	2,450	-	24,350	-	24,350
Sub-Total (b)	63,314	-	2,450	25,914	34,950	-	34,950
(c) New Projects							
1. Establishment of National Marketing Board	31,200	-	-	-	-	31,200	31,200
Sub-Total (c)	31,200	-	-	-	-	31,200	31,200
Total Industry and Commerce	96,714	-	4,650	25,914	34,950	31,200	66,150
D. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS							
(a) Completed Projects							
1. Assistance to Postal Services	34,493	-	34,493	-	-	-	-
2. Consultancy Services for Radio Seychelles	15,782	-	10,782	5,000	-	-	-
Sub-Total (a)	50,275	-	45,275	5,000	-	-	-
(b) Ongoing Projects							
1. Civil Aviation Training	75,792	44,767	12,025	12,000	7,000	-	7,000
2. Inter-Island Transport Needs	4,633	-	4,633	-	-	-	-

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1977 - 1981

COUNTRY: SEYCHELLES

IPF : US$ 1,600,000

1st Country Programme

Activities by Sector	TOTAL	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	Sub-Total
3. Meteorological Training	80,016	27,073	23,943	20,000	9,000	-	9,000
Sub-Total (b)	160,441	71,840	40,601	32,000	16,000	-	16,000
Total Transport and Communications	210,716	71,840	85,876	37,000	16,000	-	16,000
E. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT							
(a) Completed Projects							
1. Assistance to Secretarial School	8,000	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
2. Hotel Catering and Tourism	119,967	117,067	2,900	-	-	-	-
3. Middle Management and Supervisory Studies	3,945	3,945	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total (a)	131,912	121,012	10,900	-	-	-	-
(b) Ongoing Projects							
1. Consultancy Services in Education	51,440	-	-	7,250	24,750	19,440	44,190
2. Supervisory Training	36,254	11,922	7,832	16,500	-	-	-
3. Youth Activities	37,300	-	-	23,350	13,950	-	13,950
4. Employment and Manpower Planning	19,154	-	12,094	-	7,060	-	7,060
5. Workers' Education Programme	44,879	-	-	-	5,000	39,879	44,879
Sub-Total (b)	189,027	11,922	19,926	47,100	50,760	59,319	110,079

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1977 - 1981

COUNTRY: SEYCHELLES

Activities by Sector	Total	1977	1978	1979	IPF : US$ 1,600,000 1st Country Programme 1980	1981	Sub-Total
(c) New Projects							
1. National Planning and Co-ordination of Manpower Development	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000
Sub-Total (c)	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000
Total Education, Training and Human Resources Management	360,939	132,934	30,826	47,100	90,760	59,319	150,079
F. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND HEALTH							
(a) Ongoing Projects							
1. Assistance in Housing Programme Implementation	24,450	-	-	12,000	5,250	7,200	12,450
2. Assistant Building Control Officer	18,600	-	-	2,712	9,300	6,588	15,888
Sub-Total (a)	43,050	-	-	14,712	14,550	13,788	28,338
(b) New Project							
1. Health Training	22,500	-	-	-	17,700	4,800	22,500
Sub-Total (b)	22,500	-	-	-	17,700	4,800	22,500
Total Human Settlements and Health	65,550	-	-	14,712	32,250	18,588	50,838
GRAND TOTAL	1,600,000	223,378	290,462	333,437	444,357	308,366	752,723

ANNEX III

ESTIMATED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD (1977-81)

SOURCE	AMOUNTS ($: 000)					
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	T O T A L
Bilateral Programmes 1/	6,000	9,000	21,600	24,000	26,000	86,600
Multilateral Programmes other than UNDP and the UN Organizations	1,000	3,500	10,700	13,000	12,000	40,200
UN Organizations Regular Programmes						
UNFPA	-	62	192	146	30	430
UNICEF	40	126	109	100	61	436
WHO	34	35	90	157	150	466
UNESCO	20	75	6	6	-	107
UNIDO	-	-	14	-	-	14
ILO	5	15	8	5	5	38
Sub-Total	99	313	419	414	246	1,491
UNDP	224	290	338	479	269	1,600
GRAND TOTAL	7,323	13,103	33,057	37,893	38,515	129,891

1/ Including Capital assistance (finance - loans/grants), Capital Equipment in kind - as well as technical assistance (resident experts, consultants and fellowships) and Food Aid.

ANNEX IV

PRIORITY PROJECT PROPOSALS

The physical dispersion and geographical position of the more than ninety islands that constitute the Republic of Seychelles pose for the Government development problems that are more acute than those experienced by the average developing island states. For this reason, several other projects have been identified for implementation on a top priority basis during 1980 and 1981. These projects have not been included in the present Country Programme due to the obvious limitations of the IPF resources. They are shown in this annex in the hope that other means of financing them will be found with the help of UNDP to facilitate their being followed up.

1. Boat Construction

Under UNDP project SEY/72/003 - Consultancy Services to the Ministry of Agriculture, blueprints have been produced for the construction of a 38-foot fishing vessel that would also contribute to inter-island transport services. In order to finance the purchase of raw materials for and the actual construction of the boat, additional resources amounting to $ 45,000 will be needed.

2. Meteorological Training

Additional funds amounting to $ 27,500 will be needed during 1980-1981 to supplement the activities of project SEY/75/002: Meteorological Training, in the training at regional institutions, of Seychelles cadres.

3. Civil Aviation

The location of the archipelago's islands relative to one another, and to the nearest continental land masses of Africa and Asia is such as to make air-transport the most important mode of movement of both persons and goods. Not only has this necessitated the expansion of the international airport on Mahé island, completed in 1971; it has also led to the creation of a national airline to service the outlying islands, and improvement of anxillary ground and communications facilities. Seychelles urgently needs qualified pilots, air traffic controllers and related ground personnel. The training of a modest number of nationals in these specializations will cost an estimated $ 125,000 during 1980 and 1981.

4. Inter-Island Transport Needs

A one-month consultancy mission to assess inter-island transport needs has been foreseen in 1980 to look at both sea and air transport possibilities, and the strategies to be adopted. The cost of this mission is estimated to be $ 5,375.

5. Study Tours in Shipping Management

The transportation development strategy of Seychelles seeks to ensure the provision of adequate facilities with a view to encouraging international shipping services to meet the country's needs in the movement of exports and imports. It also seeks to provide cargo and passenger services between the various islands. In line with this strategy, it is proposed to send the Port Manager on a two-month

study tour during 1981 to observe the organizational set-up and operations of selected ports in Malaysia, Singapore and the Pacific.

Training is also envisaged during 1980, of deck navigation officers, and of sea search-and rescue officers.

A sum of $ 81,000 will be needed during 1980 and 1981 to meet these needs.

6. Assistance in Land Surveys

As will have been seen in paragraphs 15 and 58, housing is one of the Government's priority areas in the current plan period. New housing estates are to be opened up on Mahé island, and private construction is to be encouraged and promoted. In support of the anticipated surge in activity the services of a Land Survey specialist under the aegis of United Nations Volunteers will be required for one year beginning in 1980. The Land Surveyor will be expected to prepare engineering plans and project designs, and to supervise topographical and control surveys. An estimated $ 10,000 will be needed.

7. Preventive Maintenance Mechanics

The Government desires to establish a system of preventive mechanics in the mechanical pool of the Department of Works. Two United Nations volunteers with specialization and experience in mechanics will be required from 1980 for a period of two to three years to help put the system into operation, and to train nationals. Around $ 38,000 will be needed for the purpose.